You make communal representation a peg upon which to hang the foreigner. I suggest, before you make a general statement to the effect that the service is over-run by foreigners, that you collect statistics which are contained in published statements, and see what is the percentage of appointments held by foreigners. There are occasions, happily rare, when special considerations and efficiency demand that a foreigner should occupy a place of authority as an officer of the State. I do not think there are many who will share with your view that every foreigner, whether doing good work or bad work or work of exceptional merit, should be expunged from the State. In many cases we have to be thankful that we have been able to secure the services of officers doing work for the State which the people of the State appreciate.

You then talk of the age-limit. This age-limit was proposed for good and sufficient reason. To my mind there must be something radically wrong when a man fails to qualify himself to earn a livelihood before he is twenty-five. Of course, there are as you say, backward classes who have been hindered in the matter of education and who have not acquired their qualifying degrees before this age. Government always show consideration in such cases and it is entirely wrong to say that applications for exemption from age-limit are sanctioned as a matter of course.

You turn to communal representation and you say that communalism is rife in the State although in the same breath you admit that in the rural tracts there is absolutely no communal strife. Let me assure you that the communal feeling that you describe is slowly dying out in the State and it is hardly perceptible at present. But a speech such as this will only increase it. You have to consider whether in making such an appeal to the communal spirit, you are doing your country a service or a disservice.

There are no other points in your representation that call for a special reply rom me.

183. Needs of the Meenachil taluk.

MR. VARKI KOCHOUSEPH (*Member, Meenachil taluk, Group I*) described the absence of facile means of communication in the Meenachil taluk and made the following proposals for improving the condition of the taluk :—

(1) Government should take over for maintenance the ryots' road from the Erattupettah-Kanjirappalli road (near the 7th mile-stone) to the K. K. road, 33rd mile.

(2) A road should be opened from the Kanjirapalli-Erattupetta road, 10th mile, to the Edamattam-Tidanad road.

(3) The Ampara-Mankompu road and the Antinad-Melukavu road should be made fit for cart-traffic.

(4) The Erattupetta-Arakulam village road should be converted into a public road.

(5) The Plasanal-Pravithanam road should be constructed at once.

(6) The survey of the Ettumanur-Mundakayam railway line should be made before the close of the year and its construction should be taken up immediately after the opening of the Quilon-Ernakulam railway line.

(7) A bridge should be constructed at Erattupetta.

(8) The construction of the proposed bridge across the Kadanad canal should be put in hand at once.

(9) Government should take over the maintenance of all ryots' roads about which representations had been made at the previous session of the Assembly.

(10) A District Court should be established at Meenachil with jurisdiction over the Munsiffs' Courts at Meenachil, Kanjirapalli and Todupuzha. This could be done by reducing one of the benches in the Kottayam District Court.

(11) A Sub-Registrar's Office should be established at Erattupetta or, if that was not possible, the Sub-Registrar's Office at Bharananganam should be transferred to Erattupetta.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Varki Kochouseph, the first item of your representation is regarding the assumption by the P. W. D. of the ryots' road from the Erattupetta-Kanjirapalli road, 7th mile, to the K. K. road, 32nd mile. No application

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has been received as yet on the subject and if you will arrange for an application being made to the Chief Engineer, he will undertake to have the matter looked into.

As regards the opening of a road from the Kanjirapalli-Erattupetta road, 10th mile, to the Edamattam-Tidanad road, if the road is cut by the ryots, the Chief Engineer will undertake to have it maintained provided you act on the advice of the Division Officer in the alignment of the road.

As regards the conversion of the Erattupetta-Arakulam village road into a public road, an estimate is under completion for the first section and the next section will be taken up after the completion of the first.

In regard to the conversion of the Ambara-Mankompu road and the Anthinad-Melukavu road into cart roads an estimate for Rs. 2,700 has been received by the Chief Engineer and it is under examination, *i. e.*, in respect of the portion of the Ambara-Mankompu road.

As for the immediate construction of the Plasanal-Pravitanam road, this has been taken over for departmental maintenance and the Chief Engineer will arrange for funds being allotted for its improvement and proper maintenance.

The bridge you refer to at Erattupetta on the Erattupetta-Punjar road will be taken up after the bridge at Palai.

Then you ask for a bridge over the Kadanad canal. This is on a loop road and the question will be taken up after completion of more urgent bridges.

As regards the bridge at Erattupetta on the Erattupetta-Kanjirapalli road this question will also be taken up after the consideration of the more important bridge at Palai.

As regards your request for all roads being taken up for departmental maintenance, that is a matter which will be taken up as each road becomes suitable for maintenance.

You want a District Court at Meenachil. The matter has been referred to the High Court for consideration.

In regard to the Sub-Registrar's office which you want at Bharananganam, I shall consult the Director of Registration, examine the statistics and see which is the most convenient place where it should be located.

184. Needs of the Roman Catholic Christians.

MR. VARKEY KOCHOUSEPH (*Member, Meenachil taluk, Group I*) said that the Roman Catholic Christians were poorly represented in the public service. In population they were one of the strongest communities of the State. In education they were quite on a par with any other community. In loyalty to the throne and submission to constituted authority they were second to none. They never took part in revolutionary movements or disloyal agitations. But they were not allowed their due share in the administration of the country. Their young men were not able to get admission into several ranks of the public service. They did not want efficiency to be sacrificed for the sake of communal representation. All that they wanted was that among equally competent applicants, those who belonged to less represented communities should be preferred to those who belonged to better represented communities. For the purpose of communal representation there was also another point which Government had to bear in mind. Government should treat Roman Catholics as a separate community by themselves and not include them in the large group of persons known by the omnibus designation of Christians.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Varki Kochouseph, in regard to your representation that Catholic Christians should be given appointments commensurate with their numbers in the State, all I can do is to draw your attention to previous announcements on the subject, one occasion being in this very Assembly last year. The general policy of the Government is this: to hold out equality of opportunity to all communities without sacrifice of efficiency or lowering the standard of qualification. That is the only course that can be followed with equity and justice; and like other communities, it applies to the Catholic community as well.

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